



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Mary Gambill, Community Outreach Specialist Ainsworth, Nebraska (402) 387-2242
Vicki Pecena, Village Clerk Spencer, Nebraska (402) 589-1038

WATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR SPENCER VIA FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING

Ainsworth, Neb., May 23, 2003--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded this month, over \$1 million in loan and grant funds to the Village of Spencer. The USDA monies leveraged with \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grants from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development will afford the 541 residents of Spencer with the continued delivery of potable drinking water.

"Difficulties occurring with the Village's water distribution system and lack of storage tank capacity will be corrected through the water improvement project," stated Mary Gambill, community outreach specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development. "Presently, the water system is in a state of constant repair with increasing maintenance costs."

The existing 35,000-gallon elevated water storage tank for Spencer lacks the capacity to meet one day of the community's reasonable water demands. The majority of the water system dates back to 1920 complete with cast iron water mains that are deteriorating and causing a rise in the frequency of water main breaks. Additionally, the distribution system is extremely weak, this witnessed when opening hydrants in various areas of the Village reducing some main line pressures to below 20 psi or zero pressure. The minimal number of valves, which are also old and some inoperable, prove challenging when isolating the mains during repairs and in minimizing sanitary hazards. Water system deficiencies noted when compared to state standards include insufficient sized mains; dead-end mains; inoperable and inadequately spaced hydrants; hydrants without isolation valves; and hydrants connected to inadequately sized mains. These deficiencies contribute to inadequate water system reliability and operating pressures, increased sanitary and health hazards, and customer complaints of low pressure.

"This water project will be a big step for the citizens of Spencer to rebuild the infrastructure of the community - the foundation of the town," stated Vicki Pecena, village clerk of Spencer. "The residents will have a safe, low maintenance water system for their future. Small towns like Spencer can't survive if their basic services are allowed to deteriorate."

Spencer's water improvement project will provide for the construction of a 100,000-gallon elevated water storage tank and for demolition of the existing tank. Approximately 21,500 LF of old distribution lines will be replaced for improved water delivery. The new tank will aid the Village in meeting the minimum guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The tank will also provide for minimum residential fire demands and eliminate a potential health concern where a residential fire demand could exceed existing supply and storage capacity and create the potential for back flow of contaminants into the distribution system.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

-2-

The \$979,800 USDA loan and \$55,200 grant were provided through the USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. The loan term is 40 years at the rate of 4.5 percent interest. For additional information contact Mary Gambill at 731 E. 4th Ainsworth, Neb. 69210 or phone (402) 387-2242, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

#

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.